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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
10/598,208	08/21/2006	Gerardus Henricus Broeksteeg	US040350US	1804
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EXAMINER HUERTA, ALEXANDER Q				
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Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

The time period for reply, if any, is set in the attached communication.

Office Action Summary

Application No.

10/598,208

Applicant(s)BROEKSTEEG, GERARDUS
HENRICUS**Examiner**

Alexander Q. Huerta

Art Unit

2427

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --
Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) OR THIRTY (30) DAYS, WHICHEVER IS LONGER, FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) ☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on 10 July 2009.
- 2a) ☐ This action is **FINAL**. 2b) ☒ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 1-21 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 1-21 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☒ The drawing(s) filed on 21 August 2006 is/are: a) ☒ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.
- Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
- Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- 11) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

- 12) ☒ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☒ All b) ☐ Some * c) ☐ None of:
1. ☒ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
 2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
 3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

Attachment(s)

- 1) ☒ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
- 2) ☐ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
- 3) ☐ Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO/SB/08)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date _____
- 4) ☐ Interview Summary (PTO-413)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date _____
- 5) ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application
- 6) ☐ Other: _____

DETAILED ACTION

Continued Examination Under 37 CFR 1.114

A request for continued examination under 37 CFR 1.114, including the fee set forth in 37 CFR 1.17(e), was filed in this application after final rejection. Since this application is eligible for continued examination under 37 CFR 1.114, and the fee set forth in 37 CFR 1.17(e) has been timely paid, the finality of the previous Office action has been withdrawn pursuant to 37 CFR 1.114. Applicant's submission filed on 10 July 2009 has been entered.

Response to Arguments

On pages 7-8 of the Applicant's Response, Applicants argue that neither Goto nor West teaches an "excess of a predetermined period of time" feature as claimed in the present invention.

The Examiner respectfully disagrees with Applicant's arguments because West teaches that a user may select a threshold viewing time per media displayed media content instance that has to be attained before an association of clusters to the composite buffer file will occur ([0086], [0097], [0111]-[0112]). Thus, West meets the limitation of an "excess of a predetermined period of time" feature.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103

The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negated by the manner in which the invention was made.

Claims 1, 3, 7-11, 13, 17-21 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Goto et al. (US Pat. **7,218,837**) in view of West et al. (US Pub. **2003/0110514**), herein referenced as Goto and West, respectively.

Regarding **claim 1**, Goto discloses “a method of displaying a video signal comprising the steps of: retrieving the video signal: generating a graphical display including a bar (on-screen Information) extending in a predetermined direction and divided into at least two program sections... inserting the graphical display into the video signal; and outputting the video signal” (Col. 16 lines 35-43, Col. 16 line 59-Col. 18 line 8, Figs. 6-8).

Goto fails to explicitly disclose that “the sections defined by markers, said markers capable of having been generated when a user changes the channel and whereby a program marker will only have been inserted when a user had selected a new channel and had remained on the new channel in excess of a predetermined period of time.”

West discloses that “the sections defined by markers, said markers capable of having been generated when a user changes the channel and whereby a program marker will only have been inserted when a user had selected a new channel and had remained on the new channel in excess of a predetermined period of time” ([0086], [0097], [0109], [0111]-[0112], Figs. 11A-B, 12-15, i.e. West discloses a progress bar which displays a surfed channel that user recently watched. For example, the first

portion 1230 of the progress bar represents the portion of MCI 4 that is stored in the buffer. The second portion 1232 represents unavailable content indicating that the user stopped watching midway through. Furthermore, West teaches that a user can select a threshold for a viewing time that needs to be attained before an association of clusters to the composite buffer file will occur). Thus, it would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art to apply the technique of inserting markers when a user changes channel when the user has remained on the channel for a period of time as taught by West, to improve the graphical display bar system of Goto for the predictable result of enabling user to clearly identify which portions of a program they have buffered when channel surfing.

Regarding **claim 3**, Goto discloses that "the markers correspond to either a program change or a channel change" (Col. 28 line 47-Col. 29 line14, Fig. 8).

Regarding **claim 7**, Goto fails to explicitly disclose that "at least one of the program sections is color coded to indicate no signal available at time of recording."

West discloses that "at least one of the program sections is color coded to indicate no signal available at time of recording." ([0112], Figs. 11A-B, 12-15, i.e. second portion 1232 indicates what portion of the current media instance is unavailable when it was recorded). Thus, it would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art to apply the technique of color coding program sections that are unavailable as taught by West, to improve the graphical display bar system of Goto for the predictable result of enabling user to clearly identify which portions of a program they have buffered when channel surfing.

Regarding **claim 8**, Goto discloses that "the graphical display further includes a program pointer (playback position mark B)" (Col. 8 lines 6-10, Figs. 4, 6).

Regarding **claim 9**, Goto discloses that "the graphical display further includes a start time graphic and an end time graphic" (Col. 11 lines 25, Figs. 3-8, i.e. the colored portion "G" represents the cached portion of the program and the beginning and ending points designate at what point the program will begin and end).

Regarding **claim 10**, Goto discloses that "the graphical display further includes an in flow animation (Col. 14 lines 37-42, Figs. 3-6, 8, i.e. the colored portion "G" of bar "E" represents the cached portion and will increase as the cache fills signifying in flow of data) and an out flow animation" (Col. 14 lines 32-36, Figs. 4, 6, i.e. the playback position "B" will slide along the bar indicating to the user they are using up data in the cache representing an out flow).

Regarding **claim 11**, Goto discloses "a personal video recording device (Fig. 7), comprising: a buffer for storing a video signal (Col. 16 lines 35-43); an audio and video coding unit for retrieving and decoding the video signal (Col. 16 lines 1-14, Fig. 7 El. 101), generating a graphical display including a bar extending in a predetermined direction and dividing the bar into at least two program sections... (Col. 16 line 59-64, Fig. 6, i.e. the playback marker "B" divides the bar into two program sections), inserting the graphical display into the video signal (Col. 16 line 59-64); and a switch for outputting the video signal" (Col. 17 lines 5-8, Col. 19 lines 16-21, Fig. 7 El. 108).

Goto fails to explicitly disclose that "said markers capable of having been generated when a user changes the channel and whereby a program marker will only

have been inserted when a user had selected a new channel and had remained on the new channel in excess of a predetermined period of time.”

West discloses that “said markers capable of having been generated when a user changes the channel and whereby a program marker will only have been inserted when a user had selected a new channel and had remained on the new channel in excess of a predetermined period of time.” ([0086], [0097], [0109], [0111]-[0112], Figs. 11A-B, 12-15, i.e. West discloses a progress bar which displays a surfed channel that user recently watched. For example, the first portion 1230 of the progress bar represents the portion of MCI 4 that is stored in the buffer. The second portion 1232 represents unavailable content indicating that the user stopped watching midway through. Furthermore, West teaches that a user can select a threshold for a viewing time that needs to be attained before an association of clusters to the composite buffer file will occur). Thus, it would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art to apply the technique of inserting markers when a user changes channel when the user has remained on the channel for a period of time* as taught by West, to improve the graphical display bar system of Goto for the predictable result of enabling user to clearly identify which portions of a program they have buffered when channel surfing.

Regarding **claims 13, 17-20**, claims 13, 17-20 are interpreted and thus rejected for the reasons set forth above in the rejection of claims 3, 7-10. Claims 3, 7-10 describe a method of displaying a video signal and claims 13, 17-20 describe a personal video recording device implementing the method. Thus, claims 13, 17-20 are rejected.

Regarding **claim 21** Goto discloses "a graphical display for a personal recording device, comprising: a bar (bar "E") extending in a predetermined direction [Col. 28 lines 47-61, Col. 29 lines 5-14, Figs. 3-6, 8]; markers dividing the bar into at least two program sections... [Col. 16 line 59-64, Fig. 6, i.e. the playback marker "B" divides the bar into two program sections], and a program pointer" [Col. 8 lines 6-10, Figs. 4, 6].

Goto fails to explicitly disclose that "said markers capable of having been generated when a user changes the channel and whereby a program marker will only have been inserted when a user had selected a new channel and had remained on the new channel in excess of a predetermined period of time."

West discloses that "said markers capable of having been generated when a user changes the channel and whereby a program marker will only have been inserted when a user had selected a new channel and had remained on the new channel in excess of a predetermined period of time." ([0086], [0097], [0109], [0111]-[0112], Figs. 11A-B, 12-15, i.e. West discloses a progress bar which displays a surfed channel that user recently watched. For example, the first portion 1230 of the progress bar represents the portion of MCI 4 that is stored in the buffer. The second portion 1232 represents unavailable content indicating that the user stopped watching midway through. Furthermore, West teaches that a user can select a threshold for a viewing time that needs to be attained before an association of clusters to the composite buffer file will occur). Thus, it would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art to apply the technique of inserting markers when a user changes channel when the user has remained on the channel for a period of time* as taught by West, to improve the

graphical display bar system of Goto for the predictable result of enabling user to clearly identify which portions of a program they have buffered when channel surfing.

Claims 2, 12 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Goto in view of West and in further view of Finseth et al. (US Pub. **2005/0028207**), herein referenced as Finseth.

Regarding **claim 2**, the combination fails to explicitly disclose that "the predetermined period of time is selected from periods of time consisting of 20, 30, 60 and 120 seconds."

Finseth discloses that "the predetermined period of time is selected from periods of time consisting of 20, 30, 60 and 120 seconds." ([0074], i.e. Finseth teaches the technique of identifying "channel surfing" behavior. If programs are watched less than a set threshold, such as 30 seconds, then attributes from "surfing" channels are not stored in a viewing history table). Thus, it would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art to apply the technique of identifying channel surfing behavior using a predetermined threshold of 30 seconds as taught by Finseth, to improve the on-screen information system of Goto for the predictable result of recognizing a "surfing" channel and thus ensuring that unimportant channels, such as "surfing" channels are excluded/filtered out.

Regarding **claim 12**, claim 3 is interpreted and thus rejected for the reasons set forth above in the rejection of claim 2.

Claims 4, 6, 14, 16 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Goto in view of West and in further view of Plourde, Jr. et al. (US Pat. **7,218,839**), herein referenced as Plourde.

Regarding **claim 4**, Goto discloses that the on-screen information (bar "E") displays genre markers (Col. 28 lines 47-61, Col. 29 lines 5-14, Fig. 8), however neither Goto nor West explicitly disclose that "the program sections are color coded to indicate genre of a program".

Plourde discloses that it is well known to color code different themed programs in the IPG, which reads on claimed "program sections are color coded to indicate genre of a program" (Col. 1 lines 35-44). Thus, it would have been obvious to one ordinary skill in the art to apply the technique of color coding different genres of programs as taught by Plourde, to improve the on-screen information system of Goto, for the predictable result of providing the user with a visual indication of the of the theme of the program without the need to look up the program information.

Regarding **claim 6**, neither Goto nor West disclose that "at least one of the program sections is color coded to indicate a program is to be saved".

Plourde discloses that "at least one of the program sections is color coded to indicate a program is to be saved" (Col. 8 lines 19-24, Col. 9 lines 49-60, Figs. 4-5). Thus, it would have been obvious to one ordinary skill in the art to apply the technique of color coding programs to be recorded as taught by Plourde, to improve the on-screen information system of Goto, for the predictable result of providing the user with a visual

indication of future programs that are set to be recorded so that they may adjust recording schedules to avoid recording conflicts.

Regarding **claims 14, 16**, claims 14, 16 are interpreted and thus rejected for the reasons set forth above in the rejection of claims 4, 6. Claims 4, 6 describe a method of displaying a video signal and claims 14,16 describe a personal video recording device implementing the method. Thus, claims 14, 16 are rejected.

Claims 5, 15 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Goto in view of West and in further view of Needham et al. (US Pub. 2003/0177495), herein referenced as Needham

Regarding **claim 5**, Goto discloses on-screen information [Col. 9 lines 28-34, Figs. 3-7, 8, i.e. bar "E"], however neither Goto nor West disclose "at least one of the program sections is color coded to indicate a program is copy-protected".

Needham discloses "at least one of the program sections is color coded to indicate a program is copy-protected" [0025]. Thus, it would have been obvious to one ordinary skill in the art to apply the technique of color coding copyright protected programs as taught by Needham, to improve the on-screen information system of Goto, for the predictable result of informing the user that they are unable to download certain programs due to copyright restrictions.

Regarding **claim 15**, claim 15 is interpreted and thus rejected for the reasons set forth above in the rejection of claim 5. Claim 5 describes a method of displaying a video

signal and claim 15 describes a personal video recording device implementing the method. Thus, claim 15 is rejected.

Conclusion

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Alexander Q. Huerta whose telephone number is (571) 270-3582. The examiner can normally be reached on M-F(Alternate Fridays Off) 7:30-5:00 EST.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Scott Beliveau can be reached on (571) 272-7343. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free). If you would like assistance from a USPTO Customer Service Representative or access to the automated information system, call 800-786-9199 (IN USA OR CANADA) or 571-272-1000.

Alexander Q Huerta
Examiner
Art Unit 2427

July 21, 2009

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/Scott Beliveau/
Supervisory Patent Examiner, Art Unit 2427